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**PATENT APPLICATION** 2-27-01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

DUNLAP

Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned

Serial No.: New Application

Examiner: Not yet assigned

Filed: November 13, 2001

Attorney Dkt. No.: 108800-00005

For: INTERCONNECTION OF USERS VIA A COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK, FOR  
COMPETITIVE GAMING

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

November 13, 2001

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fees and initial examination of the application,  
please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 5, 8, 37, 40 and 41 as follows. A copy of the marked up  
original claims is attached to this response showing the changes as set forth in  
amended 37 CFR 1.121.

5. (Amended) A method according to claim 3, wherein the user's access to the  
game of skill via the key data is controlled by reference to one or more of the types of  
characteristics data.